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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN, LOUISIANA,
CHAIRMAN

December 23, 2002

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The Honorable C.W. Young
Committee on Appropriations
H-218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Obey:

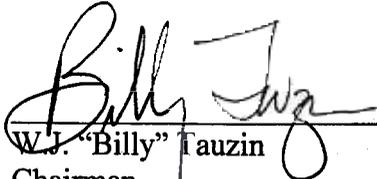
We are writing to oppose the inclusion of any language in the 2003 omnibus spending bill that would authorize the collection of fees by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC or Commission) to implement its proposed amendments to the Telemarketing Sales Rule. Although the goals of this request are laudable, it authorizes the FTC to conduct new activities. This new authorization must be subject to regular order and be debated in the appropriate committee of jurisdiction, the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The Commission's proposed language would authorize the FTC to collect fees from telemarketers to fund a national do-not-call list. There is no question that abusive telemarketing is a problem that should be addressed. This authorization, however, may be controversial and the Committee on Energy and Commerce has not had an opportunity to review and appropriately evaluate the language that would authorize this new authority. Therefore, we respectfully request that you refrain from acting on any fee collection authorization during the consideration of the omnibus appropriations bill early next year.

December 23, 2002

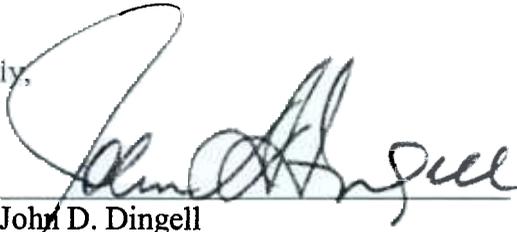
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Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



W.J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Ranking Member